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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
MAGIC VALLEY REGION
324 South 417 East, Suite 1
Jerome, Idaho 83338

Brad Little / Governor
Ed Schriever / Director

June 20, 2019

N. Miller, Western Regional Manager
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Western Region
2735 Airport Way
Boise ID 83705

Re: Protest of Water Appropriation Application-for-Permit No. 63-34652; Cat Creek Energy, LLC

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game's (IDFG) mission is to protect, preserve, perpetuate and manage Idaho's fish and wildlife resources for the public interest (Idaho Code 36-103). Accordingly, IDFG has reviewed Application-for-Permit No. 63-34652 submitted by Cat Creek Energy, LLC to appropriate public waters from the South Fork Boise River for irrigation storage and municipal storage.

IDFG neither supports nor opposes the application. However, IDFG's mission encompasses assessment of potential water appropriation effects on public interest fisheries. IDFG is specifically concerned that the requested water diversion may adversely affect important sport fisheries and Endangered Species Act protected bull trout populations within affected river and reservoir reaches of the Boise River system (IDFG Fisheries Management Plan 2019-2034: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/plans>).

Because the application contains limited information to assess fishery and recreation effects, IDFG is filing this protest per Idaho Code §42-203A(4) to offer the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) technical assistance with decision making and recommendations to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on public interest fisheries (Idaho Code §42-203A(5)(e); IDAPA 37.03.08.45.01.e.ii). Please initiate Interagency Billing for the \$25.00 fee (PCA 11406; B799) to the attention of Dr. Walt Poole (IDFG Headquarters, P.O. Box 25, Boise ID 83707).

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If information becomes available to alleviate concerns about potential adverse fishery effects, IDFG may amend or remove this protest. For questions and to arrange informal follow-up discussions, please contact Frank Edelmann (Environmental Staff Biologist) or myself at this office.

Sincerely,

Craig White
Magic Valley Regional Supervisor

Cc: Paul Kline – IDFG
Walt Poole – IDFG
M:/Mitigation

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage